



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **County Council Extends State of Emergency in a televised Virtual Emergency Legislative Session Called to Protect the Public Health, Safety and Welfare of Howard County Residents and Businesses**

*Ellicott City, MD* – (March 23, 2020) - On Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Howard County Council met in a streamed and broadcast virtual emergency legislative session and hearing in response to the public health emergency created by the Coronavirus pandemic. The Council, expressing its deep concern about the safety and welfare of the Howard County community, extended the State of Emergency announced on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The extended State of Emergency provides added flexibility, resources and powers for the County as the State, the County, Department of Health, emergency responders and our communities work to contain and turn the tide on the relentless spread of this virus.



Additionally, the Council, sitting as the Board of License Commissioners, also met in emergency session on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, to adopt temporary procedures to allow restaurants, bars and liquor stores to offer delivery of adult beverages in conjunction with licensed operations. The procedures adopted during this emergency allow alternative approaches to service delivery and mitigate the devastating impacts of this public health emergency on livelihoods.

Council Chair Deb Jung stated, “For all of Howard County, we are here for you, and although public buildings are closed to the public to prevent the spread of illness, the Council is continuing its operations remotely. Districts are available for their constituents, and we are here to support the County Executive, the Governor and our community as we collectively work to get through this crisis. We express an enormous gratitude to all of the medical personnel, researchers, first responders, institutions, elected officials, public employees, businesses and others who are

working tirelessly to help the public through this unprecedented time of uncertainty and global illness.”

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